THE KNIGHT

November-December 1998

VOLUME 21, No. 2. Issue #113. The LITHUANIAN Numismatic Association. Frank Passic, EDITOR

A NUMISMATIC VISIT TO INDEPENDENT LITHUANIA

NEW COINS FROM THE MINT OF LITHUANIA

The Mint of Lithuania has been churning out more new coin issues recently. This is part of a continuing program to commemorate various historical Lithuanian persons, events or sites, as well as provide "user friendly" small change for ordinary monetary transactions.

The Bank of Lithuania has released into circulation 1998-dated 10 and 20 centų brass coins. These are the same weight, diameter and metal content as their 1997-dated counterparts, which were first released into circulation last year. This is also the first time in the 20th century that Lithuania has had circulating coins with back-to-back dates.

The 10 centų has a face value of about U.S. 3¢, while the 20 centų is worth about U.S. 6¢.

A new cupro-nickel 10 litų coin was issued on September 30, to honor the capital city of Vilnius, and is the first of a series of commemorative coins entitled "Lithuanian cities."

(Continued on page 2...)

ABOVE: Bob Douchis (left) and Eugenijus Ivanauskas finally meet and build on a camaraderie started by three years of correspondence. Our Bob Douchis is retired from the Federal Communications Commission. Eugenijus Ivanauskas of Kaunas is an archeologist and numismatist for the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture.

Past LNA co-founder and Director Robert J. Douchis of Columbia, Maryland visited Lithuania this past summer, and it was truly a numismatic tour of independent Lithuania. His three weeks there was spent meeting with prominent Lithuanian numismatists, strengthening friendships he has made by mail through the years as the result of our LNA connections. We are pleased to present in this issue of **The Knight** several of the photographs Bob took of prominent Lithuanian numismatists.

Bob especially was able to work with his numismatic collegue Eugenijus Ivanauskas, as both specialize in Lithuanian medieval coinage.

Bob writes, "Eugenijus and I will soon be publishing a numismatic catalog of medieval Lithuanian coins. This work is now nearing completion after three years of data collection and verification. Because the final draft is now just being edited I can't divulge any details but I can guarantee however this catalog will be the most accurate to date. Many recent catalogers have compounded past errors by simply copying the work of others. The existence of

(Continued on page 2...)

NUMISMATIC VISIT

2. (Continued from page 1....)

every coin in our catalog has been personally verified. This will give you an idea of the care and diligence taken in the preparation. I will provide more information as soon as we firm up some details with the printer. We hope this work will be well received by the numismatic community."

AT RIGHT: *Bob met with Vytautas Smilgevičius, the numismatic curator for the Museum of History and Ethnography in Vilnius. Mr. Smilgevičius speaks excellent English and readily shares his numismatic knowledge with visitors.*

NEW COINS (Continued from page 1....)

The coin measures 28.7 mm. in diameter, and weighs 13.15 grams. 7,500 pieces were minted. Designed by Algirdas Bosas, the obverse features the Vytis emblem, the country and denomination, and the date 1998.

The reverse features the outline of three Vilnius churches: St. Michael's, St. Ann's, and the Bernardine Monastery.

The edge of the coin bears the inscription, "VILNIUS--LIETUVOS SOSTINĖ," meaning, "Vilnius, the Capital of Lithuania."

Information on obtaining the coins may be obtained by writing the Bank of Lithuania, 6 Gedimino Av. 2001 Vilnius, Lithuania.

AT LEFT: *Pictured is Domininkas Kaubrys of Kaunas at home in his front garden. He is justifiable proud of his sculpture of a coin of Algirdas Mr. Kaubrys is a retired successful businessman and numismatist*

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FEATURE OF THE MONTH, By Frank Passic, Albion, Michigan

MEDAL IN MEMORY OF JEWISH VILNA

The history of Jewish life in Vilnius lasted more than 400 years, beginning in the 16th century. It ended with the liquidation of the Vilnius Ghetto by the Nazis during the holocaust 1941-1943.

Jewish life in Vilnius flourished for many years. The Jewish community became known as the "Jerusalem of Lithuania," and Vilnius (Vilna) became the center of Jewish culture in Europe.

At the end of World War I, (1918) Jews made up the largest ethnic group of the city, nearly 50%. Following WWI, Vilnius became the world center for Yiddish culture and creativity. In 1925 during the Polish occupation, the Institute for Jewish Research "YIVO" was founded. It became world known for its work in education in both Herbrew and Yiddish. The original brochure accompanying the medal states: "In the 18th century Vilna was famous for her scholars, the greatest among them Rabbi Eliahu, the "Vilna Gaon." In the late 19th century Vilna became a center for the Enlightemnment and the Zionist Movement. In 1897, the first Jewish workers party "The Bund" was founded here, and later Vilna was the home of the Poalei Zion Movement."

A special medal was issued in the 1970s, designed by noted Jewish medalist Eliezar Weishoff and is entitled, "In Memory of Jewish Vilna." It is part of a series of medals issued by the Ghetto Fighters House in Israel commemorating various World War II Jewish events in war-torn Europe. The medal was struck in four versions. The bronze, silver-plated and gold-plated bronze versions have a total mintage of 7,000 pieces.

Bronze. Diameter: 59 mm. Weight: 95 gr. Original issue price: $16.00. Silver-plated bronze: Diameter: 59 mm. Original issue price: $16.00. Silver-plated bronze: Diameter, 59 mm. Original issue price: $20.00. .999 Silver: Mintage: 1,000. Diameter: 59 mm. Weight: 80 gr. Original issue price: $90.00. Gold-plated bronze: Diameter, 59 mm. Weight: 95 gr. Original issue price: $23.00. The edge of the medals are inscribed with the metal content, and a serial number.

OBVERSE: The obverse design features the entrance to "Synagogue Square," the heart of the historical Vilnius Ghetto, destroyed during the Holocaust 1941-43. The "Square" had more than 20 synagogues and centers of other communal Jewish activities. The gateposts show the scars of war. The Hebrew text reads, "Synagogue Square," with the bottom text reading "GHETTO FIGHTERS HOUSE" in English and Hebrew.

REVERSE: The reverse features a street in the Jewish section of Vilnius before World War II. The English text reads, "IN MEMORY OF JEWISH VILNA."

Each medal came packaged in a dark blue plastic "fold over" type (full of PVC) holder measuring 148 x 79 mm. unfolded.

LNA TO MEET IN CHICAGO IN AUGUST

Tentatively mark your calendars for Saturday, August 14, 1999. We are planning an LNA meeting at the American Numismatic Convention in CHICAGO! More information later.

THE SEMBA PENINSULA HOARD

By Liudas Šulinskas
Kolekcija, Nr. 5, 1998, pp. 49-50.
Translated by Aleksandras Radžius

The Semba peninsula is in Prussia. It is bounded on the east by the Deimena River, on the south by the Prieglis River and the Aistian Lagoon, on the west by the Baltic Sea, and on the north it is joined to the Neringa Peninsula and the Courish Lagoon. In 1254 the Semba territory was conquered by the Teutonic Knights and at the mouth of the Prieglis River they built the Königsberg Castle.

A hoard was found in the Königsberg district, in the city of Krantai (Cranz in German, now called Zelenogradsk). A total of 28 whole silver half-kapa, one with an end chopped off, and two chopped off end pieces were found. Five years ago, a small portion of the hoard made its way to collectors in Kaunas.

The half-kapa differ in appearance, cross-section, and mass from the Lithuanian half-kapa previously found in various hoards. The half-kapa from the Semba hoard have two forms. One group has across section that is rounded with a flat bottom, like a loaf of bread, with rounded ends that get thinner. The other group has a cross section like that of an inverted pot. At both ends, the sides seem to be flattened.

The Semba half-kapa weigh between 127.1 and 140.3 grams and the analogous Lithuanian half-kapos (from the Vilnius-Ribiškis and from Pašušvis hoards), which are also about 13 cm. long, weigh between 98.97 and 105.3 grams.

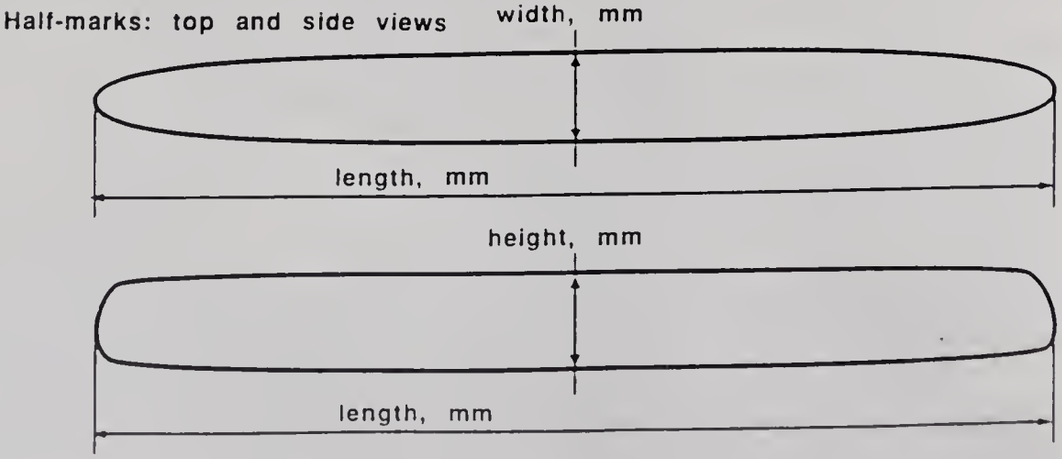
The difference in weight between Semba half-kapa and the Lithuanian half-kapa is 32.536

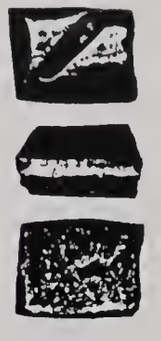
Table 1. Comparison of weights between the Semba and Lithuanian half-marks that are also about 13 cm long.

Semba penninsula hoard	
S1 - 127.1 grams	1 - 104.15 grams (Vilnius-Ribiškis hoard XVIII)
S2 - 133.8 grams	2 - 102.1 grams (Vilnius-Ribiškis hoard XVIII)
S4 - 137.3 grams	3 - 105.3 grams (Vilnius-Ribiškis hoard XVIII)
S5 - 140.3 grams	6 - 100.2 grams (Vilnius-Ribiškis hoard XVIII)
S6 - 134.9 grams	4 - 98.97 grams (Pašušvis hoard)
average: 134.62 grams	average: 102.144 grams

grams., more than one troy ounce (31.1035 grams). For comparison, other standards for (full) kapa are as follows: Viennese, 280 grams; Prague, 260 grams, Paris, 245 grams, Cologne, 234 grams, Cracow, 198 grams.

It appears that the Semba half-kapa are based on the Viennese-Prague standard. These half-kapa are the first find in the Baltic area of kapa that are not based on the Lithuanian, Scandinavian or Ruthenian standard.





11.73 grams,
1.65 cm long

108.12 grams, 14.5 cm long

104.36 grams, 15.7 cm long

ABOVE & RIGHT: Top, side and bottom view of 2 Lithuanian half-kapa (German: mark), and a segment of a Lithuanian kapa (ilgoji kapa, "long kapa), or a half-mark owned by LNA co-founder and director emeritus, Robert J. Douchis. Each of these half-kapa would have constituted 6 months of wages and the segment would have constituted about 2 weeks wages for a common man, or a foot-soldier during the middle ages.

Table 2. Technical data on the Semba half-marks available for study.

Line number	Short description	Mass (grams)	Length (cm)	Width (mm)	Height (mm)	Chop marks	Notes
1	Flat, bread-like cross section, ends rounded	127.1	13.3	15.5	9.8	none	depression on top at one end
2	Steaper sides, inverted-pot cross-section, ends flattened on the sides	133.8	13.3	14.5	10	none	depression on side of one end and another depression on the bottom
3	Steaper sides, inverted-pot cross-section, ends flattened on the sides	130.8	12.4	15	10.6	none	about 1 cm chopped off one end
4	Steaper sides, inverted-pot cross-section, ends flattened on the sides	137.3	13.1	15	10.5	none	four small scratches on top surface
5	Steaper sides, inverted-pot cross-section, ends flattened on the sides	140.3	13.3	14.6	10	none	Same features as numbers 2, 3, and 6
6	Steaper sides, inverted-pot cross-section, ends flattened on the sides	134.9	13.3	14	10	none	depressions on both sides

LITHUANIAN NUMISMATIC DICTIONARY

42.

BY

Jonas K. Karys

English Translation by
V.L.G. Matelis

Continued from last issue.

PAVYZDYS/Specimen. In Numismatics: A) A trial piece, selected from a number of submissions. B) A trial die. C) A very well executed new coin, a pattern which the minter tries to duplicate in all other coins to be struck.

"PEČAT"/Pechat. 1. A Russian "seal." A word frequently found in the legends of the 15th century Eastern Slavic "dengas" money, which thereby emphasized the coin's official, government status. 2. The oldest coin of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, struck by Algirdas in Vilnius and appearing in the 14th century's 6th decade. On its obverse side there was struck just one word, "PEČAT" in Cyrillic script, since it was allotted to the Eastern regions of the Lithuanian government, where the Eastern Slavs lived. Based upon the engraving and legend, the coin itself became known as a "pechat." It was struck of high purity silver and weighed about 1 gram. Its par value is not clear, though according to the metal, it was worth about 1 gram, 0.01 of the "small kapos." Algirdas' heir in Vilnius, Jogaila, repeated his father's coins, and struck some smaller pechat coins.

"Pečat'" - antspaudas. 1, LDK-čio Algirdo antspaudas; 2, jo sid. moneta su įrašu "pečat"; 3, tos monetos škicas; 4, smulkesnė "pečat" tipo moneta, priskiriama Jogailai.

PEKUNIJA/PECUNIA. Latin, from pecus, cattle. An old Latin name for money, witnessing that cattle were at some time "money." At first, this designation applied to all types of money, and to all monetary metals: gold, silver, copper. But from the 4th century, generally to copper coins.

PELEGRINI. The "half-grašis" coins struck in Parma by Pope Hadrian VI (1522-1523), with St. Anthony pictured as a pilgrim (pellegrino) on one side of the coin.

PENGAS/PENGŐ. A Hungarian monetary unit of 100 filers, from 1925. In 1946, it was changed into the Florint.

PENTAGRAMA/PENTRAGRAM. A star of the ancient east, later spreading into Europe, with five lines surrounding the star, with the lines from the center to the corners, producing a complex geometric figure similar to the "A." It was struck upon coins of the Merovingians and similarly on French coins of the 10th-11th centuries. It later silpped into alchemy and the area of superstition.

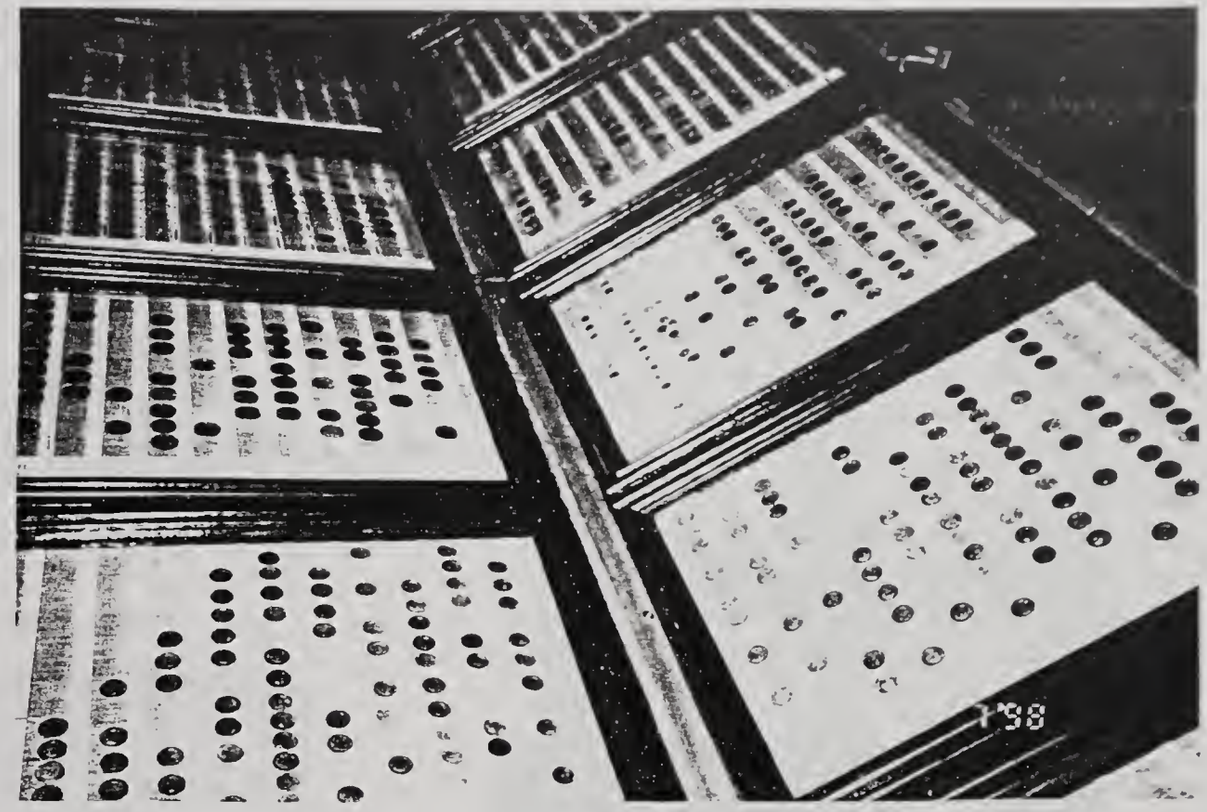
PERDIRBINYS/RAISED MONEY. A. A coin or note, whose legal nominal value has been wilfully and intentionally raised, or changed in some way so that they (or some other numismatists) could make the piece more valuable. B. A coin, medal, token upon which, in the process of striking, there occurred a change in its face, altering or reparing in the die, any original engraving, punctuation, date or anything else. Such change is impermissible in the mint. When any alteration or correction needs to be made, normally the entire coin is changed, i.e., new dies are made.

PERMUŠA/Overstrike. A coin or medal is so-called whena different die has been used to strike another design into it.

PETRARKA/Petrarch. (Francesco Petrarca, 1304-1374), a famous Italian poet of the middle ages. He is known as one of the earliest numismatic collectors in Europe, having amassed a beautiful collection of Roman coins and studied them scientifically. That collection of Petrarch's in the 14th century came to the Roman Emperor and cleared the way for placing numismatic items in scientific sequences, into "monetary cabinets" of museums, from which later evolved formidable numismatic divisions, and even entire museums.

NUMISMATIC VISIT

(Continued from page 2)



ABOVE: *Picture here is a small portion of Dominikas Kaubrys' coin collection. His 60-year collecting effort has resulted in a collection of coins from the medieval period up to the current issues.*

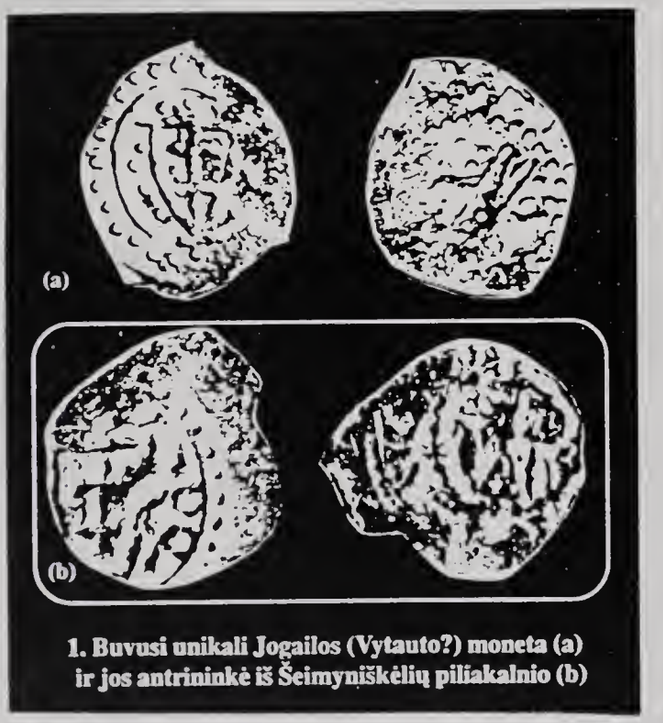
ABOVE: *Mikelis Balčius (left) of Palanga and Eugenijus Ivanauskas of Kaunas discuss Mr. Balčius's collection. Besides coins, Mr. Balčius has in his collection stone age items found in Lithuania. Mikelis Balčius a steam plant engineer and an eclectic collector of antiquities.*

NEW FINDS IN LITHUANIAN NUMISMATICS

By Stasys Sajauskas

From: *Kolekcija, Nr. 5 (1998) pp. 42-44)*
Translated by Aleksandras Radžius

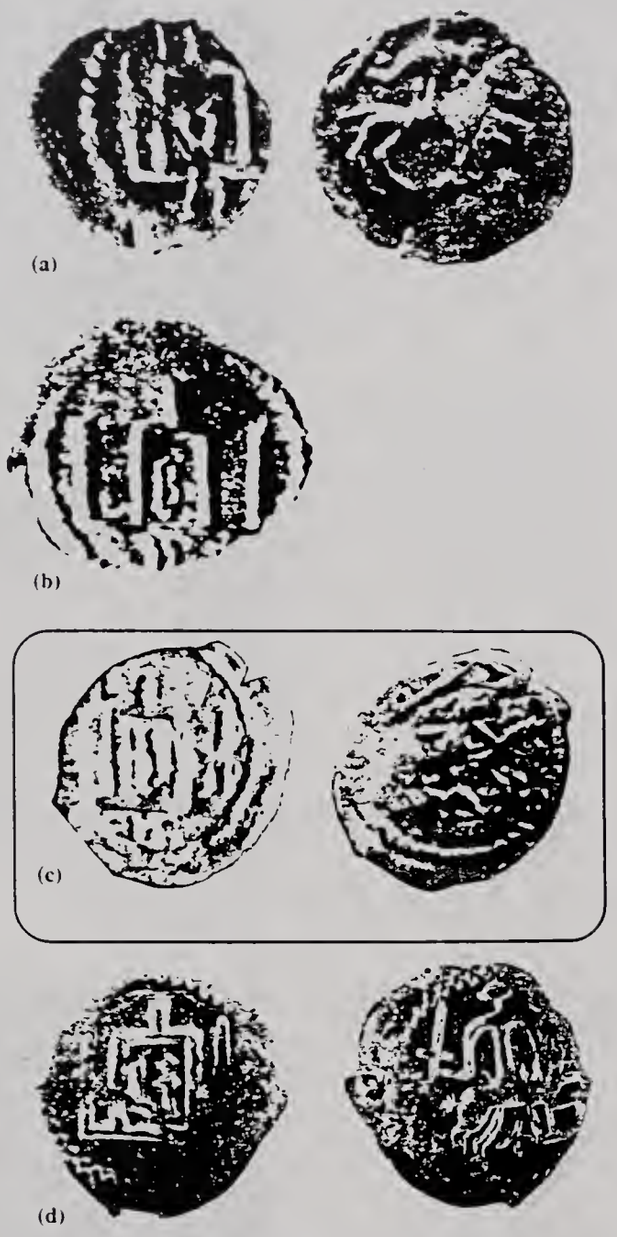
A controversy has developed as to what is depicted on the reverse of a formerly unique coin of Jogaila (or possibly Vytautas) (Figure 1a): a fish as per E. Ivanauskas [Lietuvos Pinigų Lobiai, Paslėpti 1390-1865 Metais. Vilnius, 1995.]. I had expressed a hope that more coins of this type would be found, and thereby a solution to this puzzle might be found. And now archeologist G. Zabiela found another coin of this type at a dig on the Šeimyniškėliai fortified hill. The coin is in good condition (Figure 1b). however, my initial joy was dampened, since, even though the coin was not as worn as the first coin, it is still not possible to identify the object on the reverse of this coin, either. Also, the second coin differs considerably from the first coin.



1. Buvusi unikali Jogailos (Vytauto?) moneta (a) ir jos antrininkė iš Šeimyniškėlių piliakalnio (b)

A fish can be imagined if segments that are visible are joined, as was done in illustrating the coin on the cover of a book [Zabiela, G. Retos Moetons iš Šeimyniškėlių piliakalnio. *Kulturos paminklai*, No. 4, 1997.], or if one accepts the supposition that a fish can have legs...Thus, the coin from the Šeimyniškėliai hill has not solved the problem of identifying the reverse of this type of coin. However, there is still hope that new archeological finds will be forthcoming.

Another puzzle in Lithuanian numismatics was the coin of Grand Duke Casimir (1440-1492)(Figure 2d). although this coin is similar to those minted by Grand



2. Vytauto – Aleksandro (a), Švitrigailos – Boleslovo (b) ir Kazimiero (c, d) dvidenariai

Dukes Vytautas (1392-1430) (Figure 2a) and Švitrigaila/Boleslaus (1430-1432) (Figure 2b), it differs in that there is no Roman numeral "II" underneath the Columns emblem as on the coins of Vytautas or Švitrigaila/Boleslaus, even though the coin is the same weight as those of his predecessors. Since the Roman numeral "II" on the coins of those rulers indicated that these were 2-denar coins, what was the value of the coin of Casimir?

And here is the answer! A coin of Grand Duke Casimir housed in the M. K. Čiurlionis Art Museum (Figure 2c) has a Roman numeral "II" and thus clearly indicates that these coins are also 2-denars. Thus a question arises: Why are some coins of Casimir with, and some without the Roman numeral "II," even though they are all of the same mass?

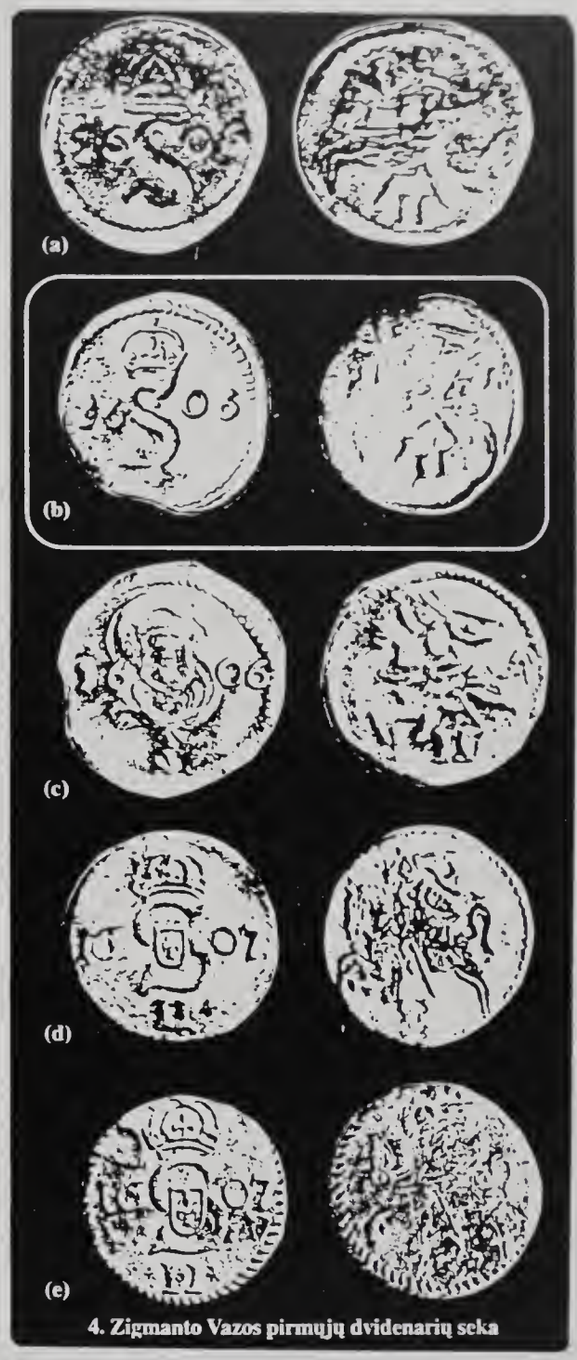
One possible explanation is that between the time that the coins of Vytautas and Švitrigaila and those of Casimir were minted, a considerable amount of time had passed, over 15 years, during which, time, due to inflation, the value of coins of this mass had changed. Thus, to indicate the value on the coin was detrimental, as such a coin had an actual value, not at two, but at 3 or even 4 denars according to the standard of the Prague groschen of Wenchelaus IV. The inflationary trend is illustrated by comparing the Prague groschen of Charles I (1346-1378) 3.3 grams (80% silver) and that of Wenchelaus IV (1378-11419) 2.4 grams (50% silver).

A formerly unknown coin is in the collection of D. Kaubrys, it is a 3-groschen coin of King Stephan Bathory minted in Vilnius in 1580 (Figure 3b). This is a mixed type coin, the reverse die is an older type and the obverse die is new--with the Leliva arms of the new mint master John Glebavičius (mintmaster 1580 to June 1, 1583).

3. Naujasis lietuviškas Stepono Batoro 1580 m. trigrašis (a) chronologinėje eilėje tarp kitų trigrašių (b, c)

Generally, mixed type coins are produced when the dies (obverse or reverse) wear out a different rates. However, this coin is of the mixed type for another reason. It appears that this is the first type of coin minted by John Glebavičius in 1580 when he took over the duties as the mintmaster. For this reason new obverse dies were manufactured with his arms.

Mr. D. Kaubrys has another interesting and formerly unknown coin type in his collection, 2-denar 1606 coins of King Sigismund Vaza (1588-1632). Coins of this type were minted from 1606 to 1614. On the obverse is the "S" monogram of the King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania, Sigismund Važa. Above it is a crown, and underneath is the arms of the mintmaster of Lithuania, Jerome Valavičius (Figure 4 a, b). However, missing is the Vaza arms in the center of the monogram that is present on all later 2-denar coins minted by Grand Dukes Sigismund August (1544-1570) and Stephan Bathory (1576-1586).



4. Zigmanto Vazos pirmųjų dvidenarių seka

WANT/FOR SALE ADS

WANTED TO BUY: A 1997 GOLD 1 Litas litas/bank anniversary coin. H. W. Oshrin, 2196 Opal Ridge. Vista, California 92083. Phone: (760) 727-2831.

FOR SALE, THE FOLLOWING BOOKS: "Lietuvos Pinigai 1915-1941" by Rūta Kuncienė. Hard cover, 175 pages. $50. NOW OUT OF PRINT!

"Nepriklausomos Lietuvos Pinigai" (1953) by Jonas K. Karys. Long out of print, this is our LAST COPY! $40.

"Cyclopedia of Lithuanian Numismatics" (1965) by Dr. Aleksandras Račkus. $25.00

ALSO: Blue Capital Plastic holder for 1925, 1936, 1938 14-coin set of Lithuanian pre-World War II coins. $35.

Complete set of coins in holder: $250.00 (circulated).

1998 silver proof 50 litų Adomas Mickevičius commemorative $75.00.

Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 6500 S. Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60629. (773) 582-6500.

FOR SALE: Our LNA ENGLISH TRANSLATION Rūta Kuncienė's "Lietuvos Pinigai 1915-1941." $12.00. Only a few copies left. Order yours now. Also FOR SALE:

Complete set of aluminum "good-for" tokens from the Lithuanian Auditorium, Waukegan, IL. 5, 10, 25c, $1.00 denominations. Brilliant UNC! $12.00.

Frank Passic, 900 S. Eaton St., Albion, MI 49224.

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LITHUANIAN NUMISMATICS FEATURED IN GERMAN PUBLICATION

Lithuania was recently featured as the cover story in the September (Nr. 6) 1998 issue of DER GELDSCHEIN SAMMLER printed in Germany. The colorful front cover of this publication featured a P-28 1938 10 litų and a 1922 2 litu, as well as 1997 10 and 20 litų notes.

The article entitled "75 Jahre Bank von Litauen und Litas-Währung" by Eckhard Kruggel and Wolfgang J. Mehlhausen begins on page 6 and gives an overview of the Bank of Lithuania on its 75th anniversary. Part 2 of the article was continued in the October issue. For further information, you can contact them on the internet at: www.gietl-verlag.de E-Mail: gietl_verlag@t-online.de

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